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<p>(30) Priority: 03.11.9926.04.00 USUS 1999 163344 2000 558353</p> <p>(43) Date of application publication: 05.10.01</p> <p>(84) Designated contracting states:</p>	<p>(71) Applicant: TOSHIBA TEC CORP</p> <p>(72) Inventor: DANKNICK DANIEL A</p> <p>(74) Representative:</p>
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**(54) TANDEM PRINTING
SYSTEM PERFORMING
DYNAMIC LOAD
BALANCING**

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a tandem printing system having job throughput and high reliability by performing dynamic load balancing.

SOLUTION: In this method and device for arranging a print job to plurality of printers, the device is provided with a single or a plurality of computer workstations connected to a controller in a communicable way, and the controller is connected to a plurality of multifunctional peripheral devices (MFP) in a communicable way. A user can decide the print job as a tandem mode job, and in the mode, the controller utilizes the plurality of multifunctional peripheral devices to shorten the entire printing time. Even though the controller can be considered to utilize two MFPs, it can utilize two or more peripheral

devices. One controller controls the whole MFPs regardless of the number of utilized MFPs.

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